

MEMORIAL

OF

CITIZENS OF LOGAN COUNTY,

IN THE

STATE OF OHIO.

FEBRUARY 12, 1827.

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MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

The memorial of the undersigned respectfully represents :

That they reside in the State of Ohio, in the counties of Champaign and Logan, between Ludlow's and Roberts' lines; that they claim title, by purchase from the United States, for the lands on which they reside: on them they have made lasting and valuable improvements; there they have formed their connexions and societies; there they have, in peace, worshipped their God; and beneath that sod rest the bones of their relatives. They confidently believed, that the title of the Government was a security to their possessions; but, since the establishment of the sources of the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, in 1812, by the Commissioners, as well on the part of the United States, as of Virginia; and the running and marking Roberts' line, under the direction of the former Commissioners, and from the best information they have been able to obtain, the most serious apprehensions are entertained, that the lands they occupy, will be found to lie within the Virginia Military District, and subject to be holden, by virtue of entries made in 1810, by owners of Virginia military land warrants; and that they will be deprived of their homes and possessions, their societies and relations will be broken up, and they must leave the bones of their families and relatives in the possession of strangers. Your memorialists are informed, that the decision of the case of *Doddridge's lessee vs. Thompson and Wright*, in the Supreme Court, settles all the principles which can or may arise, (except, perhaps, the Western boundary line of the Virginia Military Reservation,) in the decision of these conflicting claims. And, as the highest judicial tribunal of the country has passed on the question, it is supposed, that the justice of the memorial will be duly appreciated by the Legislature of the Union, in whose power, alone, remains our relief from expensive and harassing litigation, and final loss of our possessions. Your memorialists are aware, that at two several periods, measures were adopted by the House of Representatives, but not acted upon in the Senate, for want of time, which would have quieted our apprehensions, and, at the same time, compensated those who claim title by military warrants; the prosecution of which claims has only been delayed by the interference and advice of the mutual friends of those claiming title under the United States and Virginia. How much longer your memorialists may be exempted from litigation and ex-

pense, depends alone on the course adopted by your honorable bodies ; for your memorialists are informed, that those who hold claims for these lands, relying on the decision of the Supreme Court before referred to, will proceed to establish them by judicial proceedings ; and those of your memorialists who hold small farms had better abandon them than incur such an expensive contest, which, as they believe, must eventuate in the loss of their lands and their homes.

With these views, and under these feelings, your memorialists humbly pray your honorable bodies, at your present session, to make such provision, by law, as to you may seem meet and proper, for the speedy determination and settlement of these conflicting claims, both emanating from the General Government ; and that they may be protected and quieted, in the possession of their lands, their altars, and firesides. And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.